

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2, 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-7, 10 and 11 are presented for examination.

Replacement figures are submitted herewith.

Applicant acknowledges that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 8 has been obviated by the cancellation of the claim.

Claims 1-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Own Admitted Prior Art. Applicant submits that the above rejection has been obviated by the amendment of claim 1 to include the allowable features indicated in the Office Action.

Applicant further submits that claim 11, added via a preliminary amendment filed with the application on October 24, 2001, is also in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

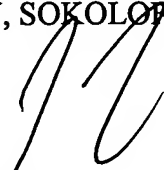
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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